

Operation Knowledge

2111. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact the Government have launched a programme called "Operation Knowledge";
- (b) if so, what are the main features of the programme; and
- (c) by when, the programme will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Government is considering major initiatives to strengthen IT and IT-enabled education in the country at different levels such as schools, ITIs, polytechnics, universities and engineering institutions with the overall objective of meeting manpower requirements of IT and IT-enabled sectors of the industry. These initiatives may be termed as Operation Knowledge. Some of the initiatives being considered enhancing and monitoring quality of IT education; increasing in-take of students in IT related engineering disciplines in existing institutions; introducing bridge programme for engineering students in non-IT engineering disciplines; and encouraging private sector participation in IT education.

At Task Force on Human Resource Development under the Chairmanship of Minister of Human Resource Development has been set up. The Task Force among other things will give its report in a month for doubling IITs/RECs from next academic year and tripling the intake in the next two years.

Amount spent on Y2K Advertisements

2112. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount spent of Y2K advertisements, on print media and on electronic media separately;
- (b) what was the basis for such a huge spending in a country like India where Y2K would have had little impacts;
- (c) if at all, what was the role and relationship of "Integrated

[10 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Solutions Pvt. Ltd." the name of which figured in each advertisement; and

(d) whether Government intends to review its priorities *vis-a-vis* Indian context?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) The expenditure towards Print media and Electronic media is Rs. 7.13 crores and Rs. 3.58 crores respectively.

(b) and (d) Y2K was a worldwide problem and was expected to affect all computerized operations/processes with date sensitivity including embedded systems using microprocessors. While Government set up detailed machinery to oversee the problem resolution within the Government system, it was important to convey the sense of urgency and need for action to industry, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and public in general. Media campaign was the way of reaching out to such a wide audience.

(c) "Solutions Integrated Marketing Services" was engaged to handle feedback to the advertisements by mailing Y2K brochures (Infopack).

Incomplete building in CEDTI, Imphal

2113. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the facts that some building of CEDTI, Imphal are not completed and remained undone;

(b) the reasons for not completing buildings; and

(c) by when a decision will be taken up to construct a separate Girls Hostel to replace the existing arrangement?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Two units of 'C Type Quarters are yet to be completed at the Centre for Electronics Design and Technology of India (CEDTI), Imphal. This is because of a litigation between the main contractor National Industrial Development Corporation (NIDC), and the Sub-Contractor appointed by the former.

As soon as the repair and renovation of the main Institute building of CEDTI, Imphal is completed, work on the construction of a separate Girls' Hostel will be taken up.